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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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27 July 1967

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Vietnam: Some Viet Cong forces short of combat supplies. (Page 1)



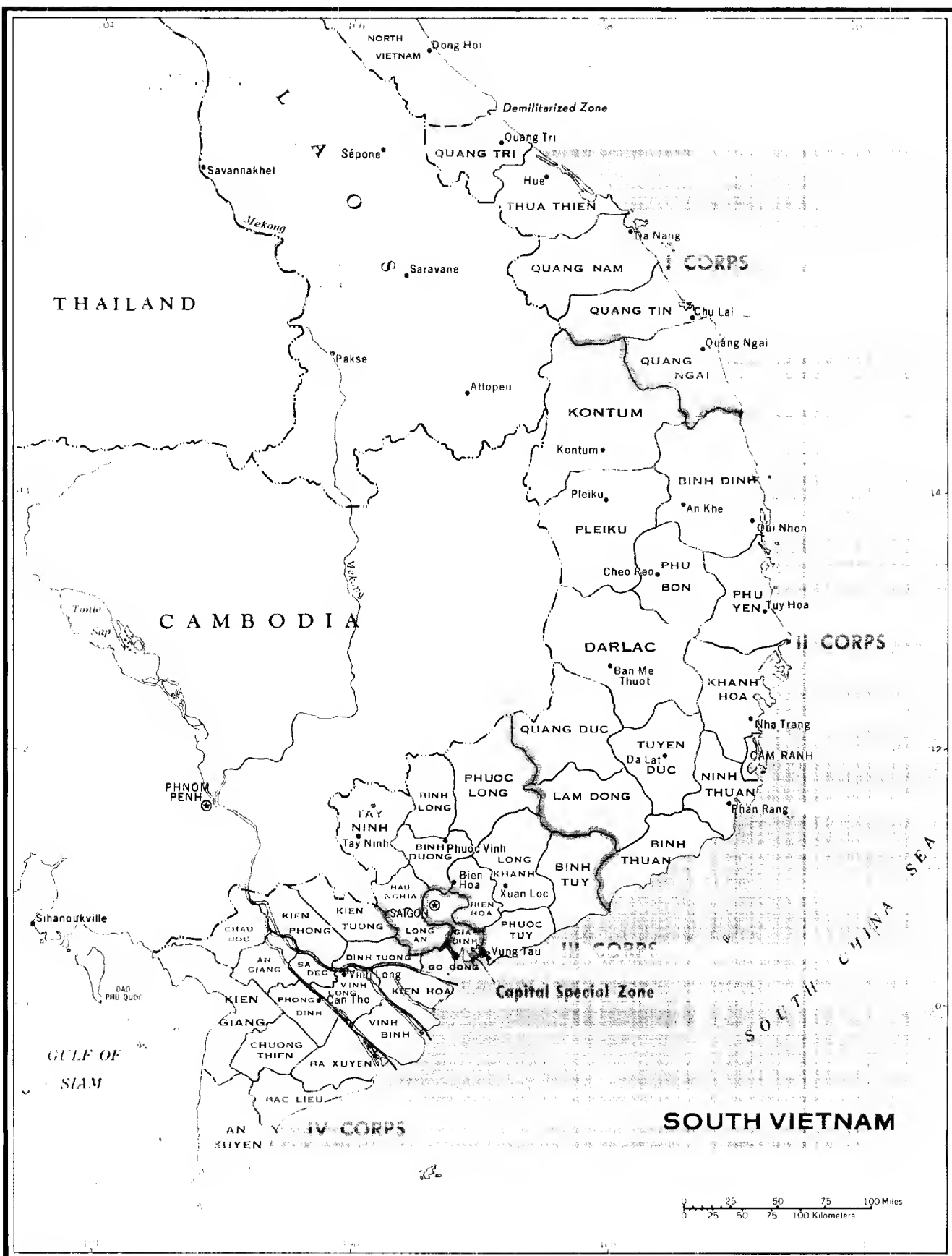
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Military Situation in South Vietnam: There are further indications that Viet Cong forces in some areas of I Corps are unusually short of combat supplies.

A recent North Vietnamese rallier from Quang Tin Province stated that his unit possessed only 50 percent of its normal equipment allowance. He also asserted that his unit was so low on ammunition for its mortars and recoilless rifles that these weapons were only used "under emergency conditions." Abortive North Vietnamese attempts to infiltrate weapons and ammunition by sea into the coastal areas of southern I Corps were made in March and July despite the high risk involved.

The onset of the rainy season in the Laotian infiltration corridor, together with continued allied operations in coastal I Corps, will make additional North Vietnamese attempts at maritime supply operations into northern South Vietnam increasingly likely.
(Map)

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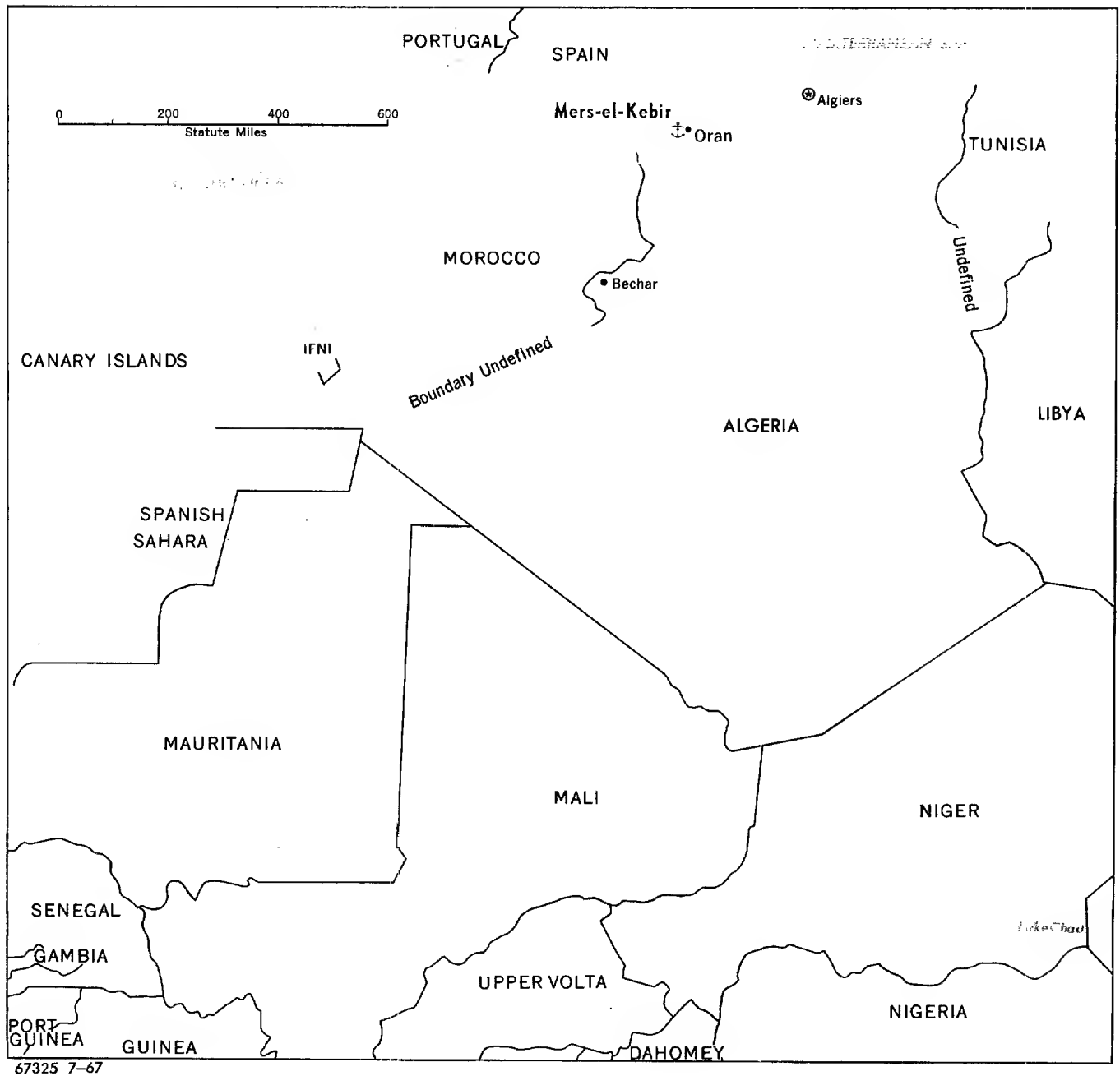
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NOTES

Pakistan - Soviet Union: President Ayub Khan will stop briefly in Moscow during a projected European tour in September, [REDACTED] Pakistan would like to obtain Soviet arms and is interested in weakening Moscow's support for New Delhi. For their part, the Soviets are eager to improve their standing in Pakistan and might be persuaded to furnish a token quantity of small arms and some nonlethal military equipment. They are likely, however, to move slowly with an eye on their relations with India.

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Jerusalem: The city council of the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem has refused to discuss with Israeli occupation authorities the question of any Arab serving on a city-wide council. This is the latest reflection of the dissatisfaction that has been developing among Arab Old City residents since unification. The disrespectful behavior of many Israeli sightseers has caused considerable irritation, and the high rate of unemployment, rising prices, and the frozen accounts in Arab banks are contributing to the resentment.

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France-Algeria: France has decided to evacuate its naval base at Mers-el-Kebir by 1 February 1968.

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[REDACTED] the Algerian Government has not yet been informed. Since the base now has little value for France, Paris may have decided on budgetary grounds to pull out before the 1977 departure date set by the existing agreement. The Boumediene government probably will welcome the resulting boost to its domestic prestige, even though the infant Algerian Navy--advised, trained, and equipped by the USSR--appears ill-prepared to make effective use of the base installations. [REDACTED] (Map)

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(continued)

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Britain-Rhodesia: London announced on Tuesday a cautious new probe designed to clarify issues surrounding the draft constitution virtually agreed to in the ill-fated talks last December. The Smith regime gave Wilson's envoy, Lord Alport, no indication during his recent visit that it is willing to reopen discussions on majority rule. This is the real issue of the 20-month independence deadlock. The British announcement has achieved Wilson's immediate political objective of silencing domestic criticism for the time being by appearing to make progress toward a solution.

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